to the female agriculture workers, extending the maternity benefits, etc.

Special programmes for child labour

*316. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special programmes have been launched by Government for the benefit of child labour;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what progress has so far been made towards the implementation of those programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) to (c) Following are the programmes launched for the benefit of child labour by the Ministry of Labour.

(1) The Ministry is extending financial assistance to voluntary organisations which undertake action programmes concerning welfare of working children, namely, health, nutrition, formal and non-formal education, vocational training, or conduct useful research in the field of child labour. A number of voluntary organisations have, with the support of the Ministry of labour, undertaken action-oriented programmes and research projects.

(2) Government has also proposes to launch two pilot projects for the benefit of child labour in two specific areas where there is concentration of child labour, namely, Mizoram-Bhadhoi belt of carpet industry in U.P. and match and fire works industry in Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu. The aim of these projects is—

(a) to raise the income levels of the families of the child workers by covering them under the existing income generating schemes,

(b) to provide non-formal education to the child workers and to their parents,

(c) to provide better health care to the child workers,

(d) to improve the conditions of work and terms of employment of the children,

(e) to improve the nutritional levels of the child workers, and

(f) to raise the general awareness and social consciousness of the people of the area.

The detail of the projects are under discussion with the State Governments of U.P. and Tamil Nadu.

New-item captioned "Gloomy prospects for iron ore in 1986"

*317. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's atention has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "Gloomy prospects for iron ore in 1986" which appeared in the *Business Standard* of the 18th November, 1985;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The news item has commented upon steel production in Japan, China and EEC countries and expected impact of their changing requirements on iron ore exports in 1986 from the two largest iron ore exporting countries of Brazil and Australia. It has also analysed pig iron and steel production and consumption trends in India.

(c) Iron ore prices are governed by production and consumption of